

The Honorable William Lacy Clay  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Clay:

Thank you for your letter of August 2, 2013 to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton. I appreciate your responsibility to your constituents who are concerned about the conditions at the West Lake Landfill Site. This agency has heard similar concerns expressed at our public meetings. We recently addressed many of these issues in response to questions posed by the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. For your convenience, I am enclosing copies of the EPA's responses, as well as my recent letter to Senator McCaskill.

Currently, the site does not pose a risk to public health as there are no complete exposure pathways from the radiological waste to human receptors. While groundwater beneath the site contains some contaminants including radium, no one is using this water for any purposes. The site is fenced to prevent access. Air monitoring by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services shows no elevated levels of radiation in the air. The EPA is closely monitoring the work at the Bridgeton Sanitary Landfill being done pursuant to an order issued by the Missouri Attorney General with the site owner to address the subsurface oxidation event.

You discuss the elements of the May 2008 Record of Decision and the EPA's path forward. The May 2008 ROD selected as a remedy capping the waste in place using a multi-layer engineered cap, with groundwater monitoring and institutional controls. In addition, the Superfund process includes a review every five years of the protectiveness of the remedy, and if any problems are noted, corrective actions are taken. After the ROD was issued, the EPA continued to receive questions from the public on the remedy. The EPA responded by tasking the responsible parties to perform a Supplemental Feasibility Study under EPA oversight to address these questions. The SFS was completed in late 2011.

At this time, the responsible parties are supplementing the SFS by completing additional work. The work includes the collection of another round of groundwater sampling. The EPA, with the assistance of the U.S. Geological Survey, will study the results of four quarters of groundwater sampling collected this past year to determine if this pathway poses a threat to human health or the environment. In addition to this groundwater evaluation, the responsible parties are also completing, under EPA oversight, additional studies to more fully evaluate excavation, treatment, and cap designs, among other things.

As a point of clarification, the FUSRAP designation is made either by the U.S. Department of Energy, based on criteria set forth in DOE policy or by Congress. The EPA plays no role in selecting sites for FUSRAP. But regardless of whether the EPA manages a site or a site enters the FUSRAP program in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has lead responsibility, cleanup of the site is required by law to be performed in accordance with the Superfund process. In other words, the Corps would follow the same legal steps of the Superfund law as the EPA follows.

In accordance with the Superfund law and the National Contingency Plan, the EPA is following a course to reach implementation of a remedy. That roadmap is enclosed. Due to uncertainties in completing the process steps outlined, I cannot give you a precise timeline for the EPA to implement the remaining steps and construct the remedy.

We will continue to keep you and your staff informed of updates regarding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me at 913-551-7006, or your staff may call LaTonya Sanders, Congressional Liaison, at 913-551-7555.

Sincerely,

Karl Brooks

Enclosure

OPA:SANDERS:ls:08-22-13:AL-13-000-8429-Clay

Sanders OPA	Gravatt SUPR	Tapia SUPR	Hammerschmidt ENSV	Asher CNSL	Thomas OPA
<i>Concurred</i>	<i>Concurred</i>	<i>Concurred</i>	<i>Concurred</i>	<i>Concurred</i>	
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Hague RGAD	Brooks RGAD				
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